

# North East Derbyshire Industrial Archaeology Society



**NEDIAS Newsletter No. 69 – February 2018**  
**Price: £2.00 (Free to Members)**



## Ringwood Hall's Blue Plaque

**I**n January this year, a blue plaque was unveiled by the Mayor and Mayoress of Chesterfield in the porch entrance to the listed Ringwood Hall in Brimington to recognise that the building was once the home to Charles Paxton Markham, the famous entrepreneur, ironmaster, coal-owner, engineer and three-times former Mayor of Chesterfield. The event was organised by Chesterfield and District Civic Society.



In this Newsletter you can see two articles – the first on the life of CPM himself and the second on the history of the Hall. The latter reprints an article penned by Cliff Williams for us some years ago and which contains much information about Ringwood Hall and its estate.

An obituary of CPM published in *The Engineer* of 2 July 1926 stated:

“Charles Paxton Markham was a man of marked personality. He was an engineer of exceptional ability, a brilliant organiser, and had a mind specially qualified to seize on the essentials of a problem. He enjoyed a reputation for fearless and independent thought and action, for honesty of purpose, and for a sense of fair-play. One of the largest employers of labour in the country, he had in an unusual degree both sympathy and understanding for his employees, by whom he was trusted because he never failed them.”

It's no surprise that the Markham name survives as it is so well known in the area; CPM had considerable influence in many walks of life, not just within the 14 companies of which he was Chairman or Managing Director, but as councillor, Mayor and Honorary Alderman of Chesterfield, as well as High Sheriff of the County.



Photo credits:

Blue Plaque (above): David Palmer; Ringwood Hall (left): Philip Cousins



<https://www.facebook.com/nediaschesterfield/?fref=ts>



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# WHAT'S ON?

## NEDIAS Lecture Programme

**M**eetings are held at: St Thomas' Centre, Chatsworth Road, Brampton (opposite Vauxhall/Bristol St Motors) S40 3AW. There's plenty of parking in their own car park, including disabled spaces, as well as on-road parking in front of the Church. All meetings commence at 7:30pm.

Monday, 12 March 2018	Doug Jenkinson: <b>"Recovery of Barytes from Lead mine Waste and its use at the Butterley Co.'s Denby Hall Washery"</b>
Monday, 9 April 2018	Maureen Greenland & Russ Day: <b>"The life of Bryan Donkin"</b>
Monday, 14 May 2018	Glynn Waite: <b>"The History of Railways in and around Chesterfield"</b>
Monday, 10 September 2018	Bob Gellatly: <b>"The Tennessean – a journey from Washington to Memphis"</b>

## Other Diary Dates

Saturday, 17 February 2018	Steve Myers: <b>"The 7th Earl Fitzwilliam and the Simplex car"</b> . Rotherham Hist Soc. & SYIHS meeting. St Pauls Church, Kimberworth Rd., Rotherham. 10:30am.
Monday, 19 February 2018	Sally Goldsmith: <b>"The Hukins – a razor grinding family"</b> . Talk at SYIHS, Kelham Island. 7:30pm. Info: 0114 230 7693
Thursday, 22 February 2018	David Templeman: <b>"Mary, Queen of Scots – from Sheffield to Fotheringhay – the Final Journey – 1584-7"</b> . Brimington & Tapton Local History Group, Brimington Community Centre (next door to the Co-operative Store), High Street, Brimington S43 1DE. 7:30pm [Doors open 7:00pm] Info: <a href="http://brimingtonandtaptonhistory.btck.co.uk/">http://brimingtonandtaptonhistory.btck.co.uk/</a>
Monday, 26 February 2018	Michael Bailey: <b>"Brunel's Fan"</b> . Kelham Island Museum. Newcomen Society/Stephenson Locomotive Society. 6:30pm.
Friday, 2 March 2018	Dr Gareth Perry: <b>"Pottery Production in Anglo-Scandinavian Torksey"</b> . Room OL1, University of Derby, Kedleston Road, Derby. DAS Meeting. 7:30pm
Monday, 19 March 2018	John Bramah: <b>"Bramah – a tradition of engineering"</b> . SYIHS meeting at Cooper Gallery, Church St., Barnsley. 7:00pm.
Tuesday, 20 March 2018	Suzanne Bingham: <b>"Workhouses"</b> . Chesterfield Local History Society. Rose Hill United Reformed Church, 22 Soresby St, Chesterfield S40 1JN. Info: <a href="http://www.cadlhs.org.uk/">www.cadlhs.org.uk/</a> 7:30pm
Thursday, 22 March 2018	Mervyn Allcock: <b>"Barrow Hill Roundhouse – History and Development"</b> talk at Dronfield Hall Barn, Dronfield S18 1PY, 7:30pm.
Monday, 16 April 2018	Chris Corker: <b>"Sheffield 1915-1916 – armaments, the shell crisis, and munitions production."</b> Talk at SYIHS, Kelham island. Info: 0114 230 7693. 7:30pm.
Thursday, 10 May 2018	Jason Cross: <b>"Mind the Gap – a look at the London Underground"</b> Barrow Hill Roundhouse. 7:30pm. Info: <a href="http://www.barrowhill.org/lectures.html">http://www.barrowhill.org/lectures.html</a>
Saturday, 19 May 2018	EMIAC Industrial Heritage Day: <b>"The history of electricity generation in the Trent valley"</b> . See info later in this Newsletter.

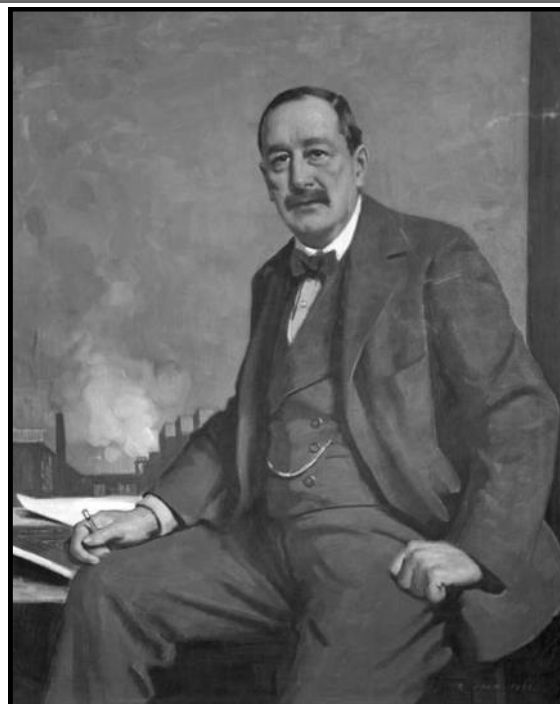
**A**t our March meeting, we have the AGM, your chance to have a say, to suggest new direction for NEDIAS or to propose new members of committee. The Agenda is enclosed with this Newsletter. New ideas proposed by members at the AGM help us all to move forward. The AGM precedes an interesting talk from former Chief Coal Preparation Engineer Doug Jenkinson - on barytes from lead mines, and its use at Denby Hall pit's coal washeries. This is technology which has become history in Britain, but the processes worked out here are used right around the world..

This Spring two of our meetings will be held in St Thomas Church itself due to booking clash for the Main Hall – so when you arrive do look out for committee members who may be at the entrance to direct you. Sorry about this – venue returns to normal for our summer/autumn meetings.

**Charles Paxton Markham****Cliff Lea**

*With a Blue Plaque unveiled in January in recognition of this great entrepreneur, the following timeline show some of the important events during his life.*

- 1865 – CPM born at Brimington Hall
  - Eldest son of son of Charles Markham (1823-1888) and mother Rosa nee Paxton
  - Brother of Sir Arthur Markham MP
  - Brother of Violet Markham, social reformer
  - Grandson of Joseph Paxton
  - Grew up at Tapton House.
- 1888 – death of Charles Markham, CPM's father
- 1888 – aged 23 elected to Board of Staveley Coal & Iron Co.
- 1889 – bought Broad Oaks Works from the receiver, becoming Markham & Co. Ltd
- 1889 – very first orders for tunnelling machinery received. Over 450 tunnelling shields and borers would eventually be produced by this company
- 1889 – married Margaret Hermine “Daisy” Jackson, dr. of TH Jackson, Chairman of Clay Cross Company. Their first home was Springbank House on Ashgate Rd, later moved to Hasland Hall
- 1893 – built Markham Hall as memorial to his father
- 1895 – elected to the Chesterfield Borough Council, he was to serve as Council member for some 24 years
- 1897 – elected Mayor of Chesterfield for the first time (he was to be Mayor three times)
- 1900 – Markham & Co. now employing 600 workers
- 1901 – between 1901-1914, Markham & Co. produced a total of 113 tunnelling shields and tunnel boring machines, mainly for the London Underground, and a total of 61 mine winders
- 1903 – CPM elected Chairman of Staveley Iron & Coal Co.
- 1907 – purchased Ringwood Hall
- 1908 – moved in from Hasland Hall
- 1909 – CPM elected Mayor again, the re-elected for 1910-1911
- 1910 – Markham & Co. now occupies 25 acres with direct rail access to both the Midland Railway and the Great Central Railway
- 1910 – made a Freeman of the Borough of Chesterfield
- 1911 – 19 Aug. CPM as Mayor and Magistrate read the Riot Act to strikers attempting to burn down the Midland Railway Station
- 1911 – provided great support for slum clearance in Chesterfield, particularly he personally donated £10,000 funds for regeneration of the “dog kennels” area. Thus Markham Rd. is named after him.
- 1912 – after his mother Rosa's death, inherited Tapton House, but continued to live at Ringwood Hall
- 1914 – became Deputy Lieutenant of Derbyshire



Charles Paxton Markham by Richard Jack.  
Note Staveley Works in the background.  
(Courtesy: Chesterfield Museum & Art Gallery)

- 1914 – Markham & Co. imported and became agents for Ford Motors
  - 1914 – under CPM, iron production at Staveley doubled between 1900-1914
  - 1916 – CPM finances a 20-bed ward to be added to the Holywell Street C&NED (later Chesterfield Royal) Hospital
  - 1914 – Markham & Co. are major supplier to the war Office, including a highly secret contract to produce
  - 1918 – eight 6ft diameter attack tunnelling shields to tunnel under enemy trenches
  - 1920 – CPM maintained that some 20% of all British coal is brought to the surface in 1920 using winders produced by Markham & Co.
  - 1921 – during coal disputes, CPM supplies coal from his pits to enable continuation of production at gas works
  - 1924 – between 1918-1924, Markham & Co. produced a further 64 tunnelling shields
  - 1925 – divorced first wife, marries his cousin, Frances Marjory Nunnery
  - 1925 – gave his entire 200 acre Tapton Estate to Chesterfield Borough Council
  - 1925 – Markham Company reconstituted as part of Staveley Coal & Iron Company
  - 1925 – Staveley and its subsidiaries said to be employing 37,000 workers, to be producing 10 million tons coal per year, with their ironstone mines producing one million tons ore per year
  - 1926 – CPM passed away at his home  
His wife gifted Ringwood Hall and estate to the Staveley Coal & Iron Company to become a social centre and park for its employees.
  - 1926 – Bequeathed Markham Hall to the people of Staveley.
  - 1926 – At the time of his death, CPM was Chairman and/or Managing Director of some 14 companies
- What a life!*

## Ringwood Hall

**Cliff Williams**

*It was on Ringwood Hall this January that the Chesterfield and District Civic Society unveiled a Blue Plaque commemorating the life, work and achievements of one of its owners, Charles Paxton Markham.*

*The following article succinctly covers the building and fascinating history of Ringwood Hall from early days. It is taken from an article by Cliff Williams, "GHB and Ringwood Hall", which was originally published in NEDIAS Newsletter No 35, 2009 but is an account which is highly appropriate to this year's unveiling of the Blue Plaque.*

**A**fter 1811, when William Ward decided to wind up his interest in the Staveley Ironworks, George Hodgkinson Barrow of Southwell, became the sole proprietor. In April 1815, G.H.B took over the ground leases from the Duke of Devonshire paying £94 per annum and took on the responsibility of the Staveley Iron Works for a term of 21 years paying £150 rent and rising with small increments to £160 in 1830. This particular lease also covenanted Barrow to wash and cleanse not less than seventy tons of ironstone to be smelted every week and to make no less than 20 tons of metal each week. By 1820 he was working six different ironstone pits in Staveley viz Inkersall, Dogtooth, Blackshale, Pinder Park and Norbriggs delphs extracting over 15,000 tons in 1825.

In December 1818, he negotiated his very first coal leases 'for the use and convenience and furtherance of the said Furnace and Iron Works' that included the Old Staveley or Lower Ground Colliery and the Hollingwood Common Colliery the former having been previously leased by Ebenezer Smith and the latter worked by the Duke of Devonshire. Both collieries were to be held for a term of fourteen years and the rent for the Lower Ground Colliery was just five shillings per annum with royalties of one-shilling per long ton with not less than 15,000 tons to be got each year. The rent for the Hollingwood Colliery was five pence per long ton with no quantity stipulated – a long ton was 21 cwt of 120 lb to the cwt. The minimum rent and royalties payable each year and in two instalments was £850 with an additional rent of 7 1/2% of the cost of the new engine about to be erected. Coals consumed by working engines, workmen's houses and other customary purposes were exempt royalty payments. If the price of coal at either of these two collieries exceeded eight shillings sixpence per ton according to a fair market price the Duke demanded half of the increase above this price. The lease of these two collieries introduced G.H.B to the coal trade initially to make their own coke that had previously been bought in and to do some trade on the Chesterfield Canal together with some landsale. The quality coking coal was supplied from the Lower Ground and later from the Upper Ground Collieries.

In 1822, G.H.B leased the Old Norbriggs Colliery from the Duke that had been previously worked by Joseph Butler of Wingerworth ironworks. The following year he secured the lease of Norbriggs New Colliery for ten years commencing 24 June 1823 and ending 24 June 1833 paying for a minimum of one acre during the first

five years and then three acre or more for the remainder of the lease at a royalty of £183 per acre.

As the sole proprietor and not responsible to any shareholders it was important for lawyer Barrow to have absolute control and understanding of his growing enterprise and increasing investment. However, it is not clear who was doing the day to day management of the iron works, collieries, small coking plant and brick yard during these early years. However, the embryo of a vertical integrated business that introduced new technology was increasingly more difficult to finance and run needing more specialist workers that needed to be retained. His family residence at Southwell, some 30 miles distance, was not conducive for effective planning and negotiating with his subordinates and the Duke's agents who were hard task masters and scrupulous for detail with their respective leases and demands for prompt payments. Commuting from Southwell, would clearly have a drain on his time so it was imperative to recruit a loyal team of key workers and establish a local base close or convenient to the centre of operations.

Chapman noted that a Jacobean house situated on the Staveley Furnace site was the home of successive managers down to the middle of the 19 century. Indeed, many entries for the Furnace and Forge, recorded in the Staveley parish registers, between 1665 and 1830, would support this but no occupations can be discerned. G.H.B may also have stayed here occasionally on some of his very earlier visits and inspections. This building was an impressive three storied building and appears have been one of the three houses recorded in the 1670, hearth tax returns with four hearths. A Thomas Brailsford occupying one of these appears in the parish registers resident at the Forge 15 September 1681. Another Thomas Brailsford was occupying another property with three hearths and on 18 January 1734 there was a burial for a MR Brailsford of the Forge. These properties were amongst the biggest in the Staveley Township and clearly reflect the status of the residents who were probably of some distinction with regards running the furnace and forge.

At about the time G. H. Barrow was negotiating for the Staveley ground lease he purchased the advowson of the rectory of North Wingfield for his stepson Edward Mather Lowe who was being educated and groomed for the church. As a consequence G.H.B's brother the Rev William Barrow was appointed as the caretaker rector in November 1822, until Edward the son of Elizabeth Mather Lowe had qualified. Edward was made Deacon in March 1823, curate in February 1824 and presented as Rector of North Wingfield Church in February 1826. In preparation for their bachelor son's installation at North Wingfield, Barrow and his wife Elizabeth, spent a considerable amount of money completely renovating the rectory house, out-building and gardens. The house was very grand and spacious and contained seven bedrooms and no doubt G.H.B and his family frequently shared this accommodation saving much travelling time from Southwell.

The 1818 rental suggests G.H.B held the Staveley Hall Farm at this date and he may have considered improving the place for the permanent residence of his family but a greater part of the Hall had been neglected and run down. However, his priority at this date was the improvement and renovation of the North Wingfield Rectory for his step-son Edward Mather Lowe.

G.H.B continued to lease more land for his growing enterprise but the chronology of the acquisition of these new leases are somewhat elusive. However, a detailed list of G,H.B's occupation of all the property acquired over the years and belonging to the Duke was completed in 1846. This list included the Staveley Hall Farm of 96 acres that including the Hall at a rent of £39, gardens and pleasure grounds £6 2s 7d, hall-yard £5 19s 3d, kitchen gardens and orchard £4 2s 4d and various outbuildings at a total rent of £236. Also Forge Farm of 243 acres at £332 together with the New and Old Furnace sites and water courses that included a large dam of 6 acres and 3 acres totalling 23 acres.

### **Building of Ringwood Hall**

With a growing financial stake in the coal and ironworks and the prospects of doing a good business with the Duke in the London Market via Chesterfield Canal and Stockwith Barrow, the sole proprietor, needed to keep an even closer eye on his expanding business and be much closer to his works. Sometime in 1829, with a growing confidence and optimism in his business he decided to build a substantial house that reflected his growing status as an industrialist and ex lawyer. The mansion was to be known as Ringwood Hall and it was built in the Regency style but the architect has not yet been identified. It appears to have been completed and ready for habitation in September 1830, when the lease was computed for a term of 99 years at an annual rent of £20 3s. The actual lease between William Spencer, Duke of Devonshire and George Hodgkinson Barrow was not signed up until the 19 February 1831 *'in consideration of the expenses incurred by the said George Hodgkinson Barrow in the erection and finishing of the capital mansion and buildings'*. G.H.B was to keep the mansion house and premises in good condition and every four years he was to paint all the outside wood and ironwork with two coats of good and proper oil colour in a workmanlike manner. Barrow or his assigns could not without a written license from the Duke carry on the trade of a catgut spinner, hog spinner, boiler

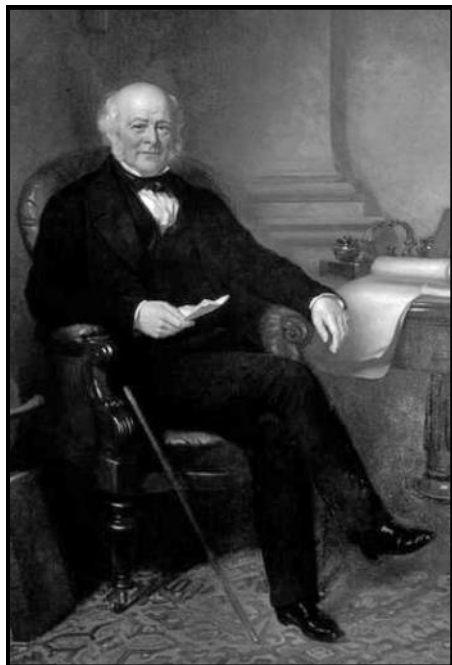
of horse flesh or bones, soap maker, glue or size maker, brewer, distiller, felt or hat manufacture, melter of fat, metal founder, slaughterman, tinman, fellmonger, currier, tanner, dyer, scourer, victualler, publican or any other offensive trade and shall not do or suffer to be done any act or thing upon the premises which may be or grow to the annoyance or damage of the said Duke or of the tenants in the neighbourhood. Barrow also had to insure the premises from damage by fire to the amount of four-fifths parts of the value with one of the Public Offices of Insurance in London or Westminster and produce a receipt of the premiums when requested.. Interestingly, Chapman writes that Walter Mather was making stove grates in sizeable numbers at Staveley in the 1780s and that some attractive examples survive at Ringwood Hall but Mather was dead by 1792, and the Hall was not built until 1830. Any fire grates etc. installed in Ringwood Hall would have been at the behest of G.H.B.



Ringwood Hall was to be well distanced from the plebeian cottages soon to be built for the new collieries and situated about half a mile from the Staveley Works and set in just over three acres of pleasure grounds and gardens and *'the volumes of flame continually vomited up by the blasting furnaces are judiciously concealed by dense belts of trees'*. An assessment of all the Duke of Devonshire's property held by G.H.B. in 1846, and previously referred to, included Ringwood Hall and outbuildings. The Hall estimated at 1r 12p was assessed at a yearly rent of £6 11s 1d. The ornamental plantation, gardens and pleasure grounds contained 2a 0r 29p and charged at a rent of £6 10s 9d and the kitchen garden of 0a 2r 32p at a rent of £7 1s 3d. The total amount of land was 3a 0r 33p with the rent remaining at £20 3s as it had been sixteen years previous.

Other property that enveloped the Ringwood Hall complex included the lawn and ornamental plantation at 19a 2r 24 p, meadow 2a 0r 9p, and land covered by water and ornamental plantations 5a 0r 6p, Ringwood plantation 8a 1r 2p, a substantial cottage of stone thatched with yard garden and croft 0a 3r 6p and Nether Croft of 0a 3r 6p. All this property some 36a 2r 18p was leased on a year to year basis at a rent of £35.

With the arrival of the NMR line It would appear that George Stephenson had entered into negotiations for the Staveley lease in 1838, before it was offered to G.H.Barrow who was initially reluctant to take it on at a high rent however, *'I will upon you favouring me with the terms of a new lease have some serious consideration with my brother (Richard Barrow) about it – but I must candidly tell you that I should not like to bring a large quantity of his money into jeopardy without a fair prospect of proportional return. There certainly is a great risk not only in finding a good coal but in meeting with a good market and therefore I could not recommend his entry into the business if he were required to pay a higher Royalty Rent per foot than what has been offered by Mr (George) Stephenson. He has had great experience in collieries and therefore his offer would be a kind of sanction to my brother – although I do not yet know why he (Stephenson) has receded from his proposals'*. L111/10. Ringwood 12th Feb 1838.



In the event in June 1840, G.H.B. decided to take on a new and extensive lease that gave him control of all the mines and beds of coal and ironstone in the manor of Staveley amounting to about 3,000 acres. Initially the lease was for a term of 42 years with a rent of £2,500 for the first five years increasing to £4,000 for the remainder. Barrow also had to lay out some £30,000 by 1ST January 1846, to improve mining operation and the ironworks and to build some workmen's houses. Soon afterwards at the age of sixty- four he decided to transfer control and responsibility to his younger brother Richard an experienced and wealthy merchant. As a consequence Richard Barrow had to sign a new lease on the 28 February 1843, that contained most of the covenants in the 1840 lease. Since the commencement of the lease in June 1840 G. H. Barrow appears to have expended some £10,000 on extending and improving the Ironworks and collieries and the new 1843 lease covenanted that the remaining £20,000 be expended on or before January 1848. Richard Barrow was now firmly

LEFT: Richard Barrow (1787 – 1865)  
(Courtesy: Chesterfield Museum & Art Gallery)

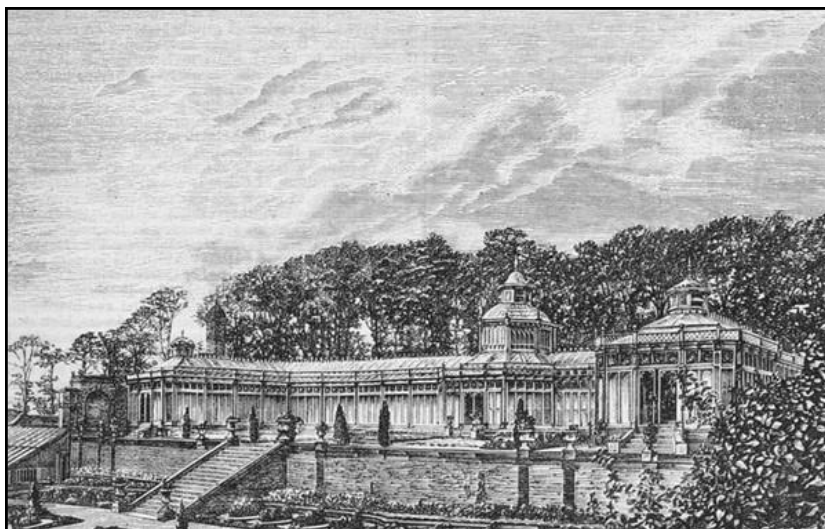
in charge and G.H.B's will made 4th May 1844, recognised his brothers commitment and investment and bequeathed him his entire real and personal estate 'my bother Richard has advanced towards the well being of the Staveley Ironworks and collieries much more money than they are worth'.

The 1841 census records G.H.B and his wife at Ringwood Hall together with his two daughters Elizabeth and Johanna aged 30 and 25 years respectively and who were both born outside the county at Southwell.

At the time of his brother's death in 1853, Richard was living at the Hall and renewed the lease on the 16 September 1857, for a term of 99 years but at an increased rent of £100 computed from the 25 March 1856. Most of the covenants were the same as his brother's but the inside of the property now had to be decorated every 7 years. <sup>No A-2. upstairs</sup>

## The Gardens

After his brother's demise bachelor Richard clearly wanted to make a statement in the neighbourhood and immediately began to improve and extend the Hall, grounds and gardens and the brick account between 1853 and 1855 records 188,890 bricks used on the building and during the following year some 111,050 bricks and 125 tons of stone were also used. There are no extant records for 1858 but for the following year 24,000 more bricks were consumed by the hall and gardens and in 1860, 96,000 for the garden alone. These extensive alterations and improvements to the mansion and grounds 'is now said to possess claims for picturesque beauty little inferior to any in this or the neighbouring counties. The flower plants shrubs and trees in the conservatory, gardens, and grounds are admirably displayed and are of a rich and diversified character; the fountains, lakes, mounds, statues and the verdure-clad lawns, also give interest to the scene, and render the whole landscape of great beauty'.



The large conservatory at Ringwood Hall

In November 1856, Barrow opened up these gardens, grounds and conservatory to his workmen and their families and 'this once secluded spot has been visited by thousands of all classes from the adjacent towns and villages'. <sup>DC.8th November 1856.</sup>

The major coal and iron companies in Derbyshire were eager to promote 'rational recreation' that would attempt to keep their workers away from consuming 'John Barleycorn' and the establishment of cottage gardens and Floral and Horticultural Societies were considered to be an important contribution towards that end. They were one of the few highlights of the community calendar and clearly identified as an important element in community building programmes. However with regards Floral and Horticultural Societies the Staveley Company lagged well behind Clay Cross 1845, Codnor 1841, Riddings 1866, Whittington 1865, Sheepbridge 1866 and many others and did not inaugurate their Floral and Horticultural Society until 1868. Their first show was held on Staveley Works Club cricket ground on the 27 July of that year and the ageing John Barrow sent a variety of plants and trees that adorned the show but were strictly not for competition. The head gardener at Ringwood, Mr Studwick, was one of the judges together with Charles Markham's, James Cambell's and Mr Fowler's gardeners. The competitions were confined to workers residing in Staveley and Brimington and, amongst other things, it was a timely initiative to harmonise the workforce who were so divided after the Free Labour dispute in 1866/67. It also coincided with the opening of the Campbell Colliery at the beginning of July. G.H.B. and Richard Barrow were both dead before the Staveley Horticultural Society was established and this has clearly highlighted a gap in their so called model community building plan but was later supported by Charles Markham and the new management.

At incorporation in 1863, it would appear that Richard Barrow had purchased the Ringwood Hall estate separately and it was not included in the land exchange when the new company exchanged some 93 acres of land with the Duke.

After Richard Barrow's demise in 1865, he was succeeded at Ringwood by his brother John Barrow, who had been his partner in the merchant trade. It was revealed after Richard's death that he owed his brother John some £260,000 of which £100,000 was invested in the company and subsequently John was appointed the next chair of the Staveley Company.

The 1871 census records Richard Prince as the head gardener with five other gardeners living in the Ringwood lodge and in two bothys erected in the garden. None of the Barrow family were noted to be at

Ringwood at this date and the head of the household was Charles Boyce and his wife Elizabeth and probably the daughter of GHB who were identified as a gentleman and a lady and both visitors. There was a full retinue of domestic staff with a housekeeper and two housemaids, a cook and kitchen maid, a butler and an assistant butler. At about this time John Barrow, had taken seriously ill suffering from a diseased liver and his medical advisors recommended that he should move to his town house, 85 Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park London, where he died on the 22 July 1871, at the age of 82 years - *'On the melancholy fact being known the blinds of the most of the houses on the works were lowered in deference to the departed gentleman'*. John's move to London probably explains Boyce's short occupancy of Ringwood Hall and by August 1871, John James Barrow, another nephew to Richard and John, was now resident. In July 1872, he decided to open up the Ringwood Hall grounds for the annual horticultural show previously held on the Works cricket ground. J.J.B was the last of the founder directors and remained at Ringwood until about 1875, when he removed to Tunbridge Wells and died there in 1903.

According to a comprehensive report in *'The Journal Horticulture and Cottage Gardener'* for March 1876, the Ringwood Hall gardens, conservatories, glass houses and their well planned layout were completed by Richard Barrow under the superintendence of his head gardener Mr Petch. This colourful report is too long and vivid to submit here and would be out of context but its two conservatories, several greenhouses and kitchen gardens are worth a mention. The large conservatory was considered to be one of the chief features of Ringwood and formed a half octagon and was 220 feet long and the centre was also octagonal supported by a dome and supported by eight pillars of the same form and under the dome was a large decorated fountain. The smaller conservatory was 70 feet long and 14 feet wide and a range of three greenhouses 75 feet long in three compartments and an exotic fernery including a peach house and two vineries with several other vineries and peach houses in the kitchen gardens. This kitchen garden department comprised of a range of seven houses each house measuring 33 feet long, 16 feet wide and 12 feet high and half-spanned-roofed heated by hot water. One of these was described as an orchard house devoted to plums, pears and figs. Another block of span-roofed-houses and pits 45 feet long and 16 feet wide catered for ordinary greenhouse plants. The several ranges of pits were used for early potatoes, asparagus, French beans, radishes and salads. There was an endless supply of slack, free of charge, to burn in the greenhouse and good round coal for domestic use. The head gardener at the time was Mr Prince who had received his early training at Lord Londesborough's, Grimston Park; he also served at Syon House under Mr. Smith who went on to Kew and did some time at Chatsworth.

We have already noted that John James Barrow, left Ringwood Hall for Tunbridge Wells in 1875, and the next incumbent was John Burton Barrow, J.P. and barrister, and another of Richard's nephews. He married Ellen Jane A. Macfarlane, daughter of James Duncan Macfarlane, Rector of Staveley. Their first child Arthur Edmond J.B Barrow was born at Ringwood in 1878, followed by two more children Emily Zoe and James Humphrey in 1879 and 1881 respectively. Interestingly, several people on a number of occasions have thoroughly researched the 1881, census for Ringwood Hall and have concluded for some reason that the enumerator omitted this residence and its occupiers. It was probably at this time that the family moved to Thurgaton, Southwell, where they had two more children Ellen Janet and Frances Muriel in 1883 and 1885. In April 1891, he was appointed to a seat on the Staveley Works Board and the 1891 census records them back at Ringwood with a large retinue of servants, grooms and gardeners. There were eight female domestic servants, all single, one butler William Plant, one housekeeper Eleanor Allwright and one governess Emmy Bertha D Reimann from Germany. Residing in the first Ringwood Lodge was the head gardener George P Bound and his brother William the foreman gardener and residing in the second lodge was James Gregg gardener's labourer. Also living in the Ringwood Hall garden in *'the bothy'*, a small one roomed dwelling, were two other gardeners. Joseph Peach was farm bailiff residing at Ringwood Hall Farm and George Crozier, coachman was resident at nearby Rose Cottage. Living over the stables were two grooms and a boots man? The total number of residents in the Hall on the night of the census was twenty-one and at the time there were 24 combined bed and dressing rooms.

About three years later John Burton Barrow and his family had moved out and in late October 1894, an Italian nobleman the Marquis Piedilemine de Saliceto removed from Garendon Park, Leicester and was the new occupant at Ringwood Hall and he hosted the Staveley Horticultural Society exhibition in July the following year. It would appear that the Marquis had moved on by the following year and the Show was held on its original site at the Staveley Works cricket ground. What happened after this show is unclear but there is no reporting of it in either the Derbyshire Courier or the Derbyshire Times in 1897, but by May 1899, Ringwood Hall was up for sale.

The next reference for the show does not appear again until August 1903 when it was held in the grounds of

Dr. Court and the exhibition was only confined to Staveley Parish. This report explains that the previous years show was held in the Markham Hall and appears to have been revived as part of the coronation celebrations and Dr. Court was its chairman.

Unfortunately, no early plans for the Hall and outbuildings appear to have survived but when the estate came up for sale in May 1899, it was described as a fine old family Mansion House set in about 110 acres of undulating grass land and woods with a well timbered park and a large ornamental lake. The mansion house contained a large entrance hall with outer porch, five reception rooms on the ground floor, namely, drawing room 29ft 4ins by 19ft 6ins; and a lesser drawing room 19ft 6ins by 14ft 6ins; library 19ft by 10ft; dining room 27ft by 20ft 3ins; opening into a large conservatory. A smoke room 17ft 6ins by 15ft and a billiard room 29ft by 20ft 6ins. Front and back staircases and 24 bed and dressing rooms, two bath rooms and first class sanitary and domestic arrangements including well fitted basement and cellars. The stables comprised of eight loose boxes and two standing with three coach houses and a hay and straw chamber with five rooms over. Gas and hot and cold water are laid on with a complete system of drainage. The grounds include Italian gardens, tennis lawn, two conservatories, three peach houses, greenhouse, three stove houses, laundry, out-offices, two kitchen-gardens and an excellent home farm and three well built lodges. The park and plantations afford good shooting and a further shoot could be arranged over a larger manor. The lake in the park was leased to the Great Central Railway for a term of which 54 years are unexpired at a minimum water rent of £200 per year but the exclusive rights for fishing, boating and bathing are reserved for the owners of the estate. Of the seven internal locomotives the company employed one was named Ringwood and was one of the trains that pulled the 'Paddy Mail' from Chesterfield to Staveley.

### **Purchase by CPM**

The vendor offered to reduce the sale price by £6,000 if the property should be reserved but after several bids the property was withdrawn at £14,250.<sup>D T. 20th May 1899</sup> At this date the vendor was probably John James Barrow of Tunbridge Wells and the 1901 census records Ringwood Hall as uninhabited but retaining three gardeners and a coachman but no domestic staff resident. In September 1905, John James Barrow died at Tunbridge Wells and Charles Paxton Markham purchased Ringwood Hall in 1907 but Kelly's directory for 1908, records William Birkenhead Mather Jackson in residence. C. P. Markham married Margaret Hermine Jackson daughter of T. H. Jackson chairman of the Clay Cross Company and W. B. Jackson's brother.

After extensive improvements and alterations Markham moved in from Hasland Hall in 1908 and remained there until 1926 where he died. The Hall was then handed over to the staff of the Staveley Company by deed of gift for use as a welfare and recreation Centre a role that it was to continue for 62 years until it was sold by instructions from Stanton PLC in 1988. Stanton and Staveley were amalgamated in 1960, first under Stewarts and Lloyds and then under the control of the British Steel Corporation. Mr Bill Hiscox and Mrs Susan Hobson purchased the Hall for an undisclosed sum from the Stanton PLC but after spending a considerable sum renovating and improving the Hall they sold the property to avoid bankruptcy. A succession of entrepreneurs showed an interest in the Hall and in October 1995, the property was purchased by Mr M McDonald. The next incumbents were 'Classicrange Hotels' who were keen to develop the business side of the hotel and sympathetic to the history of the house. In the millennium year it was purchased by Lyric Hotels and subsequently converted into a first class hotel and conference centre.

The Ringwood Hall Park was acquired by the Staveley U.D.C by a Compulsory Purchase Order in 1948, for £16,445. About the same time the Council also compulsory purchased 2.4 acres of land off the Markham Road, Duckmanton for a playground when the NCB was unwilling to surrender the land and the owner refused to sell.<sup>DT. 30th July 1948.</sup> The order for Ringwood Hall Park was made when negotiations with the Staveley Company failed and Councillor T. H. Swain (chairman of Parks and Cemeteries) regretted that the company had not been prepared to make a gesture by presenting it to the town. The park was opened as a public park 2 April 1949, by Mrs Jarvis, Staveley U.D.C chairperson, when she planted one of fifteen chestnut trees.<sup>DT 8th April 1949.</sup> After local government reorganisation in 1972, and the demise of the Staveley Urban District Council, it was taken over by the Chesterfield Borough Council.

*Acknowledgements:- Devonshire Collection at Chatsworth by kind permission of the Duke of Devonshire. Special thanks to Andrew Peppit and Stuart Band. Derbyshire County Council Records Office. County Local Studies at Matlock. Chesterfield Local Studies Library with particular thanks to Lesley Phillips. Paul Wilson. Ron Presswood and Sandra Struggles.*

### Exhibition at Derby Museum

A two-part exhibition at Derby celebrates the 20th anniversary of the implementation of the Treasure Act and the founding of the Portable Antiquities Scheme with a display of Treasure objects from Derby Museums' collection that were discovered by the public in the local area, such as beautiful medieval gold jewellery, a Viking silver ingot and hoards of Roman coins.

This exhibition forms part of the national '20 Years of Treasure' celebrations organised in partnership with the British Museum.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is a project across England and Wales to record archaeological objects discovered by the public and make them accessible to researchers and the public.

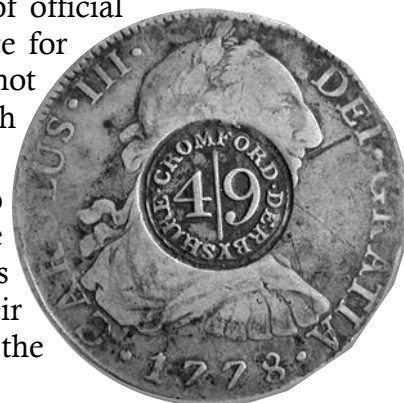
Part 2 of the exhibition runs until 22nd April. They are displaying six hoards of coins from Roman Britain, the Middle Ages and the 19th century. The main highlight is the Ashbourne Hoard consisting of two very rare gold coins of Carausius, a Roman general who broke away from the Roman Empire to set up his own empire in Britain. These coins have never been displayed together. One of them is being borrowed from the British Museum especially for this exhibition.

They are also displaying a hoard discovered last year that contains three Cromford Dollars – Spanish American coins re-stamped for use by Cromford Mill to pay its workers.

During the early stages of the industrial revolution, technical and organizational changes in textile production required new forms of wage labour. Accessing cash for wage payments provided a challenge for the early industrialists. The financial strain of foreign wars, especially during the Napoleonic period, resulted in an increase in the price of silver. By an order issued in 1601, the Royal Mint could not purchase silver above 5s 2d an ounce, significantly below the prevailing current market value. Little silver, therefore, was sold to the Mint during the early industrial period. As a result, the Mint restricted production and during the period 1751–1816 very few silver coins were minted. Despite the production of large quantities of copper coins between 1770 and 1775, and the appearance of numerous imitations of official issues and private copper tokens from 1787, the needs of everyday commerce for coins below the value of the gold denominations could not be fully met. It was not that there was a shortage of silver, far from it. There were plenty of Spanish American eight reales, silver dollar-sized coins, available as bullion.

The deficiency of domestic coinage, because of the Royal Mint's inability to purchase silver for recoinage, led industrialists to seek alternative sources. One of these sources was the countermarking of the Spanish American eight reales (dollars) by merchants, with their name and a value, and used to pay their workers during the period 1780 to 1830. One of the 70 or so known issuers was the Mill at Cromford.

This exhibition at Derby Museum is a "must": it displays the Cromford coins alongside six coin and precious treasure hoards discovered very recently by members of the public.



ABOVE: Overmarked Spanish Silver Dollar/ Eight-Reales Coins – "Pieces of Eight". Marked 4s9d for payment of workers at Cromford Mill

### EMIAC 94 – Industrial Heritage Day "The history of electricity generation in the Trent Valley"

**Hosted by DAS in Long Eaton. Saturday 19 May 2018**

It is the turn of DAS to host the twice-yearly East Midlands Industrial Archaeology Conference, and the theme will be coal fuelled electricity generation. In the 20th Century, power stations along the River Trent were the backbone of the UK's electricity supply. They ran with remarkable thermal efficiency 24 hours a day, burning locally mined coal, transported from the collieries in 'merry-go-round' trains that could be loaded and unloaded without stopping. Today, the local mines have all closed, and the few surviving power stations operate for a few hours a day to supply peak load in winter.

This conference will look at the history of electricity generation in the Trent Valley, with five speakers

covering the subject from the first small scale local plants of the 1880s to the CEGB giants of the 1960s. In the afternoon there will be a walk through Long Eaton looking at the buildings of the town's original electricity generating station and the lace factories that were its first consumers

Booking forms on NEDIAS and DAS web sites, and at NEDIAS meetings.

## Award for Newcomen Atmospheric Engine

Thomas Newcomen (1664-1729) designed and installed the first practical and successful steam engine, used initially for pumping water out of coal mines. It was a giant step forward in the history of engineering, and led in due course to the Industrial Revolution. Over 2000 Newcomen engines were installed world-wide during the 18th and 19th centuries, over 600 of them before 1775 when James Watt was able to improve their efficiency.

Dartmouth is the home for an original early Newcomen engine dating from about 1725. It can be seen in operation at the tourist centre, using a hydraulic mechanism added for demonstration purposes. This engine had first been installed at the Griff Colliery near Coventry, and later moved to Oakthorpe Colliery, Measham, and to Hawkesbury Junction where it was used by the Coventry Canal Company from 1821-1913. It was finally moved to Dartmouth in 1963 by the Newcomen Society for demonstration in Newcomen's home town, in time for the celebration of the tercentenary of his birth. The 22-inch diameter cylinder and wooden arched beam are believed to be original, with valve gear and a separate 'pickle-pot' condenser added about 1820.

In October, the engine was awarded an Engineering Heritage Award, the ceremony taking place at Dartmouth in the presence of senior representatives of the I.Mech.E , the Newcomen Society and the great and the good in industrial archaeology.

We heard last year from speaker David Hulse about the contract manufacture of Newcomen engines by Francis Thompson of Ashover. Many of Thompson's parts (and those of others such as Boulton & Watt) were made at Smiths Foundries close to us here, some using Griffin Foundry/Walton "Cannon" Mill. Richard Robinson in his early paper on Smith's Griffin Foundry/Cannon Mill ( see NEDIAS Journal Vol 1, 2006) listed the following engines where parts had been made by the foundry.



Newcomen Engine made at the Smith's Griffin Foundry in 1791 for Boulton & Watt, now in the Science Museum

DATE	SITE	INDUSTRY	NOTES	REFERENCE
1767	Yatestoop, Winstar	Lead		Kirkham PDMHS Vol 1 No 7'62
1777	Norbriggs	Colliery	70in, cost £1201	Chesterfield Canal Minutes
1780	Griffin Foundry			Hopkinson/ DM
1781	Gregory Mine	Lead		Gregory Accounts
1791	Oakerthorpe Colliery		57.5 in, now in Science Museum	Anderson, 1917
1793	Arnold, Notts	Worsted Mill	40"	David Hulse, website
1823	Magpie Mine	Lead	Last Newcomen engine in Derbyshire lead mines	

Richard had reminded us that an engine made for Boulton and Watt, which is now on display in the Science Museum at Kensington, was cast at Smith's Griffin Foundry in 1791 and subsequently worked for a total of 126 years, initially at Oakerthorpe Colliery and finally at Pentrich Colliery until 1917 – just one hundred years ago.

# And finally ....

## .... A Lift or Staircase for the Chesterfield Canal ?

**I**n the winter 2017/2018 edition of “*Cuckoo*”, the magazine of the Chesterfield Canal Trust, Rod Auton speculates on one of the current restoration debates for this, Brindley’s last planned canal route. As restoration continues apace, some of the more difficult projects for the Trust – including those posed by HS2 - are being tackled. One of these debates concerns the climb from the Rother Valley, recognising the redevelopments around Staveley, the line of the HS2 and into Killamarsh, where the original line of the canal had in any case been blocked by new housing in the 1970s.

The latest proposed route replaces the original almost 8 mile pound, and constructing a total of 17 new locks. (You can see some of the tortuous thoughts for the route through Killamarsh itself contained on line in a graphic document at [www.chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk/wp-canalsite/wp.../Killamarsh-route-2017.pdf](http://www.chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk/wp-canalsite/wp.../Killamarsh-route-2017.pdf))

The most spectacular of the proposed new locks will be the Moorhouse Flight, a quintuple staircase! **Yes, Quintuple.** Maybe you’ve seen or travelled through the famous “*Bingley Five Rise*” on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal? This would be quite a marvellous addition for the Chesterfield Canal – there would be a truly magnificent view across Nethermoor Lake and down the Rother Valley. This could be a great attraction for visitors and “Gongoozlers” – and it would be only a mile away from the oldest staircase locks in the country also on the Chesterfield Canal – the quadruple and three triple staircases of the Norwood Flight. If complete, this stretch of canal would be a magnet for boating enthusiasts, but therein lies another problem – staircase locks are incredible bottlenecks for the boater at busy time.

**But Finally** ---- there have been other suggestions to cope with the changes needed in elevation – perhaps there should be a “lift”, maybe a steep inclined plane – like the Foxton Inclined Plane on the Grand Union in Leicestershire, or a lift like the Anderton Boat Lift which lifts boats up from the River Weaver to the Trent & Mersey Canal. NEDIAS members will recall our visit there a few years ago. Perhaps the most spectacular suggestion to have been proposed would be to have a “wheel” like the Falkirk Wheel – certain to be an enormous visitor magnet.

Whichever of these options finally sees the light of day, it is certain to prove a great tourist attraction. Is it all “pie in the sky” or could one or other of these thoughts become reality?



Foxton Inclined Plane  
(Courtesy Foxton Inclined Plane Trust)



Anderton Boat Lift  
(Courtesy Doug Spencer)



The Falkirk Wheel  
(Courtesy Scottish Canals)

**Contributions, no matter how short (maybe about a visit you have made), and preferably by email to [cliff@nedias.co.uk](mailto:cliff@nedias.co.uk), for inclusion in future editions of this newsletter are most welcome.**

**COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT EDITION: 2nd April 2018**

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